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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 EURE-00 SAJ-01 IO-10

CPR-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 /072 W
---------- 084292
P R 181546Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4943
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2972

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, CU, MX, VE, SW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PALME TO MEXICO, CUBA, AND VENEZUELA

REF: STOCKHOLM 2877 AND PREVIOUS

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER PALME TODAY, JUNE 18, AT HIS OFFICE. THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCOMPANIED BY 14 OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING HIS WIFE, LISBET, DEPARTS TOMORROW, JUNE 19, FOR VISITS TO MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND CUBA (REFTEL).

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE IS PARTICULARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO MEXICO, NOT ONLY BECAUSE SWEDISH-MEXICAN RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IN RECENT YEARS THE SWEDES AND MEXICANS HAVE COOPERATED CLOSELY IN THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA AND THEIR POSITIONS HAVE OFTEN BEEN IDENTICAL.

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3. PALME SAID HE ALSO WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO

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VISIT VENEZUELA, WHERE (ACCORDING TO PALME), PRESIDENT CARLOS PEREZ PROFESSES TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, AND, IN THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN, CITED SWEDEN AS A MODEL FOR VENEZUELA. THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT IN GOING TO VENEZUELA HE WOULD BE "FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS" OF FELLOW SOCIALIST WILLIE BRANDT, WHO HAD ALSO VISITED CARACAS.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN TURNED TO HIS VISIT TO CUBA. HE SAID THAT THE VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION ISSUED TO HIM APPROXIMATELY SIX YEARS AGO. REPLYING TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD SAY TO THE CUBANS, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TELL THEM THAT, OBVIOUSLY, SWEDEN'S CONCEPT OF SOCIALISM DIFFERS FROM THE CUBAN CONCEPT. HOWEVER, HE WOULD ADD THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, CUBA HAS ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH, AND HE HAD COME TO OBSERVE THIS AT FIRST HAND.

5. PALME SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE CUBANS IF HE WOULD ACCEPT A "HIGH DECORATION" FROM THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS INVESTITURE, ADDRESS A MASS RALLY (IN SPANISH) IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA. PALME REPLIED THAT HE WOULD ADDRESS THE MASS RALLY, BUT, AS A SOCIALIST, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE DECORATION. THIS APPARENTLY MIFFED THE CUBANS, WHO HINTED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS REJECTION, THE MASS MEETING WAS ALSO OFF. APPARENTLY, THEY LATER RECONSIDERED AND THE SPEECH TO THE RALLY IS NOW ON AGAIN.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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